



PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2018–19 Program Evaluation Division Work Plan for Committee Approval

As part of its duties, the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee (JLPEOC)

- receives and reviews requests for evaluations to be performed by PED; and
- establishes an annual work plan for PED that describes the evaluations to be performed by the Division.

This list of evaluations considers the workload capacity of the Program Evaluation Division and allows future flexibility for the JLPEOC to add evaluations requested by committee members or based on legislation.

Evaluation Description	Priority
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (NRCS-EQIP). This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the grant application process for stream restoration evaluations administered by the Division of Water Resources of the Department of Environmental Quality under the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (US Department of Agriculture) Environmental Quality Incentive Program. This program provides grants for stream restoration evaluations conducted on agricultural or non-industrial forest lands.	1
Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), a private nonprofit organization that was created in 2014 through legislation and is responsible for a number of economic development "marketing and sales" functions that previously resided within the North Carolina Department of Commerce. These responsibilities include new business recruitment; existing industry support; international trade and export assistance; small business counseling; and tourism, film, and sports promotion.	2
American School Systems with High Student Outcomes and Predominantly Economically Disadvantaged Student Populations. This evaluation will identify at least 10 high performing American school systems with predominantly economically disadvantaged student populations and compare the systems on several variables (e.g., pupil academic performance outcomes, charter school prevalence, student mobility, per pupil funding by source, total system and school average daily membership, pupil special need, school lunch assistance percentages, school calendars). In addition, this evaluation will explore reasons for the better outcomes of these systems and report on any common best practices applicable to North Carolina.	3
Sedimentation and Stormwater Control Programs. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the sedimentation and stormwater control permit programs administered by the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR) in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEMLR administers the State Sedimentation Control Program and the federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit Program. Both programs issue permits intended to prevent sediment pollution from leaving construction sites and protect North Carolina surface waters. This evaluation will consider whether program activities provided by both programs are duplicative.	4
Modernizing Spirituous Liquor Sales in NC. This evaluation will examine whether other systems for alcohol beverage control are appropriate for North Carolina. This evaluation will provide a review of other alcohol beverage control systems, including the State of Washington, which recently changed its beverage control system from state government control of wholesale and retail control of spirituous liquor to a licensure model. The Program Evaluation Division's report <i>North Carolina's Alcohol Beverage Control System Is Outdated and Needs Modernization</i> recommended that the General Assembly consider whether the current system of alcohol beverage control needed further modernization.	5

2015-17 Program Evaluation Division Work Plan for Committee Approval

Evaluation Description	Priority
<p>Services for Students with Disabilities. This evaluation will examine the provision of services for students with disabilities at home and in school including State and federal guidelines and policies for determining the need for and the appropriate setting for services (in school, at home, or other setting). The evaluation will also examine how Medicaid and other funding sources pay for these services including ensuring that services are medically necessary and not duplicated across settings.</p>	6
<p>State Scholarships and Education Loan Programs. This evaluation will examine the extent to which state-funded scholarships, grants, and educational loan programs have met their goals. The evaluation will also examine the educational and vocational outcomes of students who have received this support.</p>	7
<p>Child Protection Screening. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the child protective screening process used by county departments of social services and determine whether there are differences in how county departments of social services approach child protection screening and identify the need for a child protection response. The evaluation will also evaluate state supervision and guidelines for child protection screening. In North Carolina, child protective services are state-supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services and county-administered by 100 county departments of social services. Child protection screening is the process used by county departments of social services to determine whether reports of child maltreatment require a child protection response.</p>	8
<p>Organizational Layers in the Department of Environmental Quality. This evaluation will examine the organizational layers of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by conducting a bottom up review of all supervisory, managerial, and executive positions and examine level of approvals required for issuance of permits for more complex industrial and agricultural activities. The Program Evaluation Division's report <i>Most Departments' Spans of Control and Number of Organizational Layers Do Not Meet Recommended Levels</i> found that DEQ had 10 organizational layers, which exceeded the statewide standard of 7 and was the fourth highest among the 21 principal departments.</p>	9
<p>NC Innovations Waiver Services (Medicaid). This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the NC Innovations Waiver including eligibility determination, plan of care development and approval, development of individual budgets, and LME-MCO management and monitoring of services provided under the waiver. The North Carolina Innovations Waiver Services (NC Innovations) funds services and supports for Medicaid beneficiaries with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities who are at risk for institutional care. NC Innovations is authorized by a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under Section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act. The current waiver was renewed and approved to be effective for five years as of August 1, 2013. Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs) are responsible for certain management and oversight activities for the waiver.</p>	10
<p>Regional Councils of Government. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the 16 Regional Councils of Government in North Carolina including an examination of overall operations, staffing, activities, performance measures, finances, and services provided to local governments. Regional councils of governments are authorized under state law and executive order, and they provide programs and services to their local governments and residents.</p>	11
<p>State Ports Authority. This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the State Ports Authority and its operation of the Wilmington and Morehead City ports. The State Ports Authority is charged with promoting, developing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating the harbors and seaports within the State. The 2017 financial audit of the Authority showed that its profitability had decreased over the previous year, and the General Assembly has appropriated \$70 million for capital evaluations in recent years.</p>	12

Other Projects Brought to JLPEOC Chairs Attention (not prioritized)

Evaluation Description
<p>Wildlife Resources Commission. This evaluation will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) in carrying out its statutory duties of managing, protecting, conserving, and regulating North Carolina's wildlife resources. This evaluation will include an examination of staffing, operations, management, licensure, and citizen satisfaction. The Commission is the regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of North Carolina's fishing, hunting, trapping, and boating laws. Law enforcement duties include ensuring public safety, enforcing rules and regulations established by the General Assembly and the WRC, and ensuring compliance with wildlife, fisheries, and boating laws.</p>
<p>Sales and Use Tax Processing. This evaluation will examine the Department of Revenue's processes for administering and collecting sales and use taxes and determine the cost of administering sales and use taxes, to include the unit cost for each of the associated processes. In addition, the evaluation will identify improvements for the efficiency and effectiveness of each process associated with the administration of this tax type.</p>
<p>Safety Precautions and Training for Correctional Officers. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of safety precautions and training methods for correctional officers and other prison personnel provided by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). After the incident at Pasquotank Correctional Institution, DPS has conducted its own internal review and brought in the National Institute of Corrections to conduct a review as well. The General Assembly has also requested a report on prison personnel matters to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety prior to the 2018 Short Session.</p>
<p>Provision Allowing Senior Citizens to Audit Classes at UNC and Community Colleges. This evaluation will examine the implementation of this provision by The University of North Carolina and the community colleges. Section 10.12 of Session Law 2017-57 allows any person who is at least 65 years old to audit courses offered at the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and the community colleges without payment of any required registration fee or tuition for the audit.</p>
<p>Procurement Cards. This evaluation will examine agency management and oversight of procurement cards (also known as P-Cards). Procurement cards enable organizations to make small purchases more quickly and efficiently by minimizing paperwork and processing time. Purchases are limited to \$2,500. The Department of Administration's Purchase and Contract Division has a statewide contract with Bank of America. Bank of America does not charge for issuance or maintenance of the cards. Control of the program lies with the purchasing officer or chief fiscal officer, who determines who may use the cards and for what types of purchases.</p>
<p>NC Educational Lottery Operations. This evaluation will examine the administration and governance of the NC Education Lottery including an examination of staffing, day-to-day operations, regional offices, and governance of the NC Education Lottery. This evaluation would be a follow-up to the Program Evaluation Division's report <i>Options Exist for Increasing Lottery Proceeds for Education</i> that focused on maximizing revenue from the lottery.</p>
<p>Immunization Requirements. This evaluation will examine the effectiveness of NC's immunization requirements for children and adults including required and recommended vaccines. The evaluation will review how immunization policies protect the health and safety of state residents including best practices and the impact of exemptions on immunization thresholds and herd immunity.</p>